



June 11, 2013

The Honorable Gail Haines, Chairwoman
Michigan House of Representatives
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Chairwoman Haines:

I am writing today on behalf of the **Michigan Academy of Family Physicians**, to express our support for Senate Bills 237, 238 and 239, which would update current Michigan law to require that a student provide documentation of immunization upon entering the 7th grade, rather than the 6th grade.

This common sense change is based on a recommended vaccination schedule issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that seeks to prevent diseases that may occur in adolescence, including human papilloma virus (HPV), meningitis and tetanus. Specifically, the CDC recommends this particular set of vaccinations for children ages 11 and 12. It may happen that some children will enter the 6th grade at age 10 and under current law, these children could potentially fall through the cracks if they are not attending regular well child visits with a family physician.

Immunizations are an important aspect of preventive health care for patients of all ages. These bills will simply help ensure that our state laws are congruent with commonly accepted medical guidelines; and we respectfully request your support. Should you have any further questions, feel free to contact MAFP Director of Government Affairs, Christin O'Brien, at cobrien@mafp.com or 517-347-0098.

Sincerely,

Fred Van Alstine, MD, MBA
President, Michigan Academy of Family Physicians
& Chairman, MAFP Board of Directors

cc: House Health Policy Committee Members